



Summary of Recommendations

Additional land use regulations can also be adopted to conserve open space and protect natural resources. Besides a wetlands ordinance, Hampton should adopt an aquifer protection ordinance and should study the merits of cluster zoning. The advantages of these regulations have previously been outlined in earlier sections. The objective of both is to protect natural resources from unwise development.

Hampton is well known for its recreational areas -- namely Hampton Beach. It is vital to Hampton's economy and employment situation to preserve those natural amenities and qualities that make Hampton Beach desirable. The beach attracts business to the area year-round. During the summer, the beach area provides a wide variety of recreational opportunities. The recreational character of Hampton Beach is likely to continue to change because of the decrease of seasonal housing.

However, the recreation facilities in other areas of town are important, too. Hampton has a very active recreational department that offers a wide range of activities. Tuck Field and the other recreation areas provide a place for many residents to enjoy recreational activities.

As explained in the Community Services and Facilities section, additional recreational land needs to be purchased by the town. Due to the increased population, the existing facilities are not adequate. Hampton should consider building or purchasing a building to be used as a recreational hall. More neighborhood playgrounds and ballfields should be built in the newly developed residential areas west of Route 1 so the children do not have to travel great distances to use them. The Town's project to drain and level Tuck Field is a step in the right direction. A good recreational program and adequate recreational facilities will benefit the whole Town.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

This section of the Master Plan provides a summary of all the recommendations contained in the Plan. The recommendations are based on a number of factors: the existing situations and uses, the community values and policies as developed by the Planning Board drawing on its experience and citizen input at public hearings, and technical planning issues. The implementation of these recommendations is necessary to insure that the goals of the Master Plan are achieved.

The 1969 General Plan for the Town contained many proposals. Some proposals were carried out, others are yet to be accomplished. The current Plan reaffirms some of the recommendations from the old plan and adds others to the list.

No radical changes in procedure are called for. Present planning practices should be continued with only a few adjustments. The following proposals are the result of the Planning Board's year-long community planning process. Their adoption is an important step towards insuring that Hampton in the future will remain the fine community that it is today.

Summary of Recommendations

GENERAL LAND USE

- Goals: -- To promote the orderly and economic growth and change of Hampton.
- To provide adequate amounts of land suitable for each type of use, and allow for reasonable growth based on economic forecasts.

It is recommended that:

...The Planning Board consider soil capability when making land development decisions.

...When reviewing development proposals, the Planning Board consider the impact on town services and the environment of the area.

...The Town's Zoning Ordinance, subdivision regulations, and site plan review process be reviewed and changed as necessary to adequately regulate development.

...The Planning Board review its Zoning Ordinance and recommend changes, as needed, to reflect the policies of this Master Plan.

RESIDENTIAL LAND USE

- Goals: -- To preserve and enhance the residential character in areas of housing in the Town.
- To provide a variety of housing types to serve the residents of the Town.

It is recommended that:

...The Town continue to allow diversified housing alternatives for the residents of Hampton.

...The Town consider requiring 2-acre lot sizes in the RAA District.

...The Town encourage subsidized elderly housing and apartments near the downtown area to meet the needs of elderly Hampton residents.

...The Town allow conversion of seasonal homes to year-round housing only when minimum building code standards are met.

...The Town take steps to provide for the upgrading of the existing nonconforming housing to current building and zoning codes.

...The Town study innovative zoning techniques in an effort to preserve open space and provide opportunities for affordable housing.

COMMERCIAL LAND USE

- Goals: -- To maintain the Central Business District (CBD) as the main commercial center in the Town.

It is recommended that:

...The Town limit commercial development to established commercial zones.

...The Planning Board study the feasibility of creating a professional business office zone to act as a buffer between residential and commercial uses.

INDUSTRIAL LAND USE

- Goals: -- To promote new industrial development that does not adversely affect the quality of life.
- To promote the improvement of existing industrial development.

It is recommended that:

...The Town encourage industrial development in the industrial zones, especially those which do not have an adverse effect on the environment.

...The Town adopt and strictly enforce regulations regarding the transportation, manufacture and disposal of hazardous and toxic materials and waste.

TRANSPORTATION

- Goals: -- To improve the internal street system.
- To improve the efficiency of the major street network in the Town.

It is recommended that:

...Highways:

U.S. Route 1 (Short Range): Improved signalization at the intersection of Route 1 and High Street, including additional signal phasing (add left turn phases). This would alleviate the safety hazards created by left turns crossing opposing traffic and help alleviate congestion. Limit driveway access points along Route 1 and require deceleration lanes at major driveways.

(Long Range): Addition of signals on Route 1 at the intersection with Winnacunnet Road and Ann's Lane to alleviate congestion created by left turning traffic, and traffic exiting these streets. Construction of a full interchange with Route 51 to alleviate traffic from having to cross the traffic flow on Route 1 to reverse direction.

NH Route 51 -- (Short Range). Construction of an interchange along Route 51 to provide direct access to the Towle Farm Road Industrial Park and the rest of the industrially-zoned land in the area.

(Long Range): No expansion of Route 51 to a 4-lane limited access highway unless steps are taken to improve the distribution of traffic exiting into the beach area. If expansion is required, construction of interchanges at Route 1 (full interchange) and Landing Road (half diamond) should be undertaken.

Interstate 95 -- (Short Range). Hampton should request that the State construct a gravel crossover through the median of Interstate 95, south of the State Liquor Store, so that emergency vehicles can have access to the opposite lane without having to travel to Seabrook to turn around.

Long Range -- Hampton should undertake a study to determine methods of increasing pedestrian and bicyclist safety. The study should assess the feasibility of constructing sidewalks and bike-paths.

...Parking (Short Range): Expand off-street parking in commercial districts.

(Long Range): Construct an off-beach parking facility and provide shuttle bus service to the beach. Expand the High Street municipal parking lot.

...Public Transportation: Participation in a regional transportation program to provide public transportation to Hampton. Operation of a shuttle bus system connecting the beach, the downtown, and any off-beach parking facility.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

- Goals: -- To provide a wide range of recreation facilities to serve all age groups of the community.
- To maintain an adequate system of school facilities to provide a quality education for each citizen of Hampton.
- To maintain a system of public buildings and facilities which can be used as service centers to the community.

It is recommended that:

...The Town acquire additional recreational land in existing residential neighborhoods and study the feasibility of building a recreation hall in a central location.

...The Town study the possibility of locating a public safety complex (fire, police, civil defense) in the center of Town.

...The Town undertake a road inventory to determine the ownership status of each road or street in Hampton.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

- Goals: -- To provide a quality water supply to the Town.
- To assure the Town of an adequate long-term solid waste disposal system.
- To see that all developed properties within the Town have an adequate level of sanitary sewerage.
- To provide for adequate storm drainage throughout the Town.

It is recommended that:

...The Town adopt and implement the facility plans for solid waste, sewer, and drainage, all of which are being conducted at this time.

...The Town insure that the Hampton Water Works Company provides an adequate supply of clean water.

OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION

- Goals: -- To encourage the protection of Hampton's natural resources.

It is recommended that:

...The Town maintain the wetlands protection ordinance to conserve valuable wetland areas.

...The Conservation Commission undertake a natural resources inventory to identify areas worthy of conservation efforts.

...The Town consider implementing an aquifer protection ordinance to protect the groundwater from pollution.

...The Town adopt floodplain regulations and incorporate a flood hazard overlay district into the Zoning Ordinance.

...The Conservation Commission use all means possible, including purchase of development rights, easements and land to preserve valuable natural resource areas.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Goals: -- To encourage the preservation and enhancement of the Town's historic and scenic character.

It is recommended that:

...Agriculture be encouraged in the western part of Town in order to preserve Hampton's farming heritage.

...The Planning Board allow low density residential use and/or carefully reviewed innovative zoning techniques in the RAA District.